WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A navigation system comprising:

position detector for detecting the current position of a mobile unit,

map information acquisition section for acquiring map information,

traffic restriction information acquisition section for acquiring traffic restriction information,

time information acquisition section for acquiring current date, day of week, and time information,

input section for entering a route point,

route searching section for searching for an optimum route passing through the route point from the current position at the current date, day of week, and time based on the map information and the traffic restriction information, and

output section for guiding a user through the found route by display or voice, wherein

said route searching section includes;

area determination section for determining whether an area of the current position is an urban area or a suburban area,

setting section for setting a predetermined area or a predetermined time responsive to the determination result, and

restriction presence or absence determination section for determining the presence or absence of restriction on each

time restriction road depending on whether or not a time restriction road exists in the predetermined area centering around the current position and whether or not a restriction time period of the time restriction road overlaps a time period in the predetermined time from the current time, and

if the restriction presence or absence determination section determines the presence of restriction, said route searching section searches for a route avoiding the time restriction road.

2. The navigation system as claimed in claim 1 wherein

if the area of the current position is an urban area, said setting section sets the predetermined area to a narrow area or the predetermined time to a long time.

3. The navigation system as claimed in claim 1 wherein

if the area of the current position is a suburban area, said setting section sets the predetermined area to a wide area or the predetermined time to a short time.

4. The navigation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the map information is provided with attribute information indicating urban/suburban area, and

said area determination section determines whether the area of the current position is an urban area or a suburban

area based on the attribute information.

5. The navigation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein

said input section enables the user to enter attribute information indicating urban/suburban area, and

said area determination section determines whether the area of the current position is an urban area or a suburban area based on the attribute information entered by the user.

6. The navigation system as claimed in claim 1, wherein

whenever the mobile unit moves out of the predetermined area previously set or whenever the predetermined time previously set elapses, said restriction presence or absence determination section determines the presence or absence of restriction on the time restriction road.

7. A navigation system comprising:

map information acquisition section for acquiring map information,

traffic restriction information acquisition section for acquiring traffic restriction information,

time information acquisition section for acquiring current date, day of week, and time information, and

output section for providing a user with the map information or the traffic restriction information by display

or voice,

restriction time determination section, if a time restriction road exists in a guide area, for determining a difference between a restriction time period of the time restriction road and the current time, and

output mode selector for selecting an output mode of the time restriction road varying depending on the determination result, wherein

said output section guides the user through the time restriction road according to the selected output mode.

8. The navigation system as claimed in claim 7, wherein

said output mode selector selects an output mode of the time restriction road varying depending on the case where the current time is contained in a restriction time period of the time restriction road in the guide area, the case where the time from the current time to the restriction start time of the time restriction road is within a predetermined time, or the case where the time from the current time to the restriction start time of the time restriction road is longer than the predetermined time.

9. A route searching method comprising:

a position detection step of detecting the current position of a mobile unit,

a map information acquisition step of acquiring map information,

a traffic restriction information acquisition step of acquiring traffic restriction information, a time information acquisition step of acquiring current date, day of week, and time information,

an input step of entering a route point,

a route searching step of searching for an optimum route passing through the route point from the current position at the current date, day of week, and time based on the map information and the traffic restriction information, and

an output step of guiding a user through the found route by display or voice, wherein

the route searching step includes;

an area determination step of determining whether an area of the current position is an urban area or a suburban area,

a setting step of setting a predetermined area or a predetermined time responsive to the determination result, and

a restriction presence or absence determination step of determining the presence or absence of restriction on each time restriction road depending on whether or not a time restriction road exists in the predetermined area centering around the current position and whether or not a restriction time period of the time restriction road overlaps a time period in the predetermined time from the current time, and

if the restriction presence or absence determination step determines the presence of restriction, the route searching step searches for a route avoiding the time restriction road.

10. A map information guide method comprising:

a map information acquisition step of acquiring map information,

a traffic restriction information acquisition step of acquiring traffic restriction information,

a time information acquisition step of acquiring current date, day of week, and time information,

an output step of providing a user with the map information or the traffic restriction information by display or voice,

a restriction time determination step, if a time restriction road exists in a guide area, of determining a difference between a restriction time period of the time restriction road and the current time, and

an output mode selection step of selecting an output mode of the time restriction road varying depending on the determination result, wherein

the output step guides the user through the time restriction road according to the selected output mode.